

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) The A floor covering comprising ~~as polymer binder~~ at least one elastomer as a polymeric binder based on at least one polyolefin with a density < 0.910 g/cm³, and at least one grafted copolymer, wherein the grafted copolymer is maleic acid anhydride grafted HD polyethylene.
2. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polyolefin has a density of 0.85 – 0.892 g/cm³.
3. (Currently amended) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polyolefin is selected from among the class of VLD very low density (VLD) PE polymers.
4. (Currently amended) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polyolefin is a mixture of at least two ethylene copolymers, wherein the ethylene copolymer mixture comprises a copolymer (a) as the main polymer with a density of 0.89 – 0.91 g/cm³ and a copolymer (b) to control rheology and elasticity with a density of 0.86–0.88 g/cm³ and MFI a melt flow index (MFI) > 3.
5. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the copolymers (a) and (b) are present at a weight ratio of 4:1 to 3:2.

6. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the copolymers (a) and (b) are copolymers of ethylene and octene.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the grafting degree is 1% to 5%.
10. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the proportion of grafted copolymer in relation to the total weight of the polymeric binder is 5% to 25% by weight.
11. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the elastomer is cross-linked with at least one cross-linking agent based on an organic peroxide and optionally a co-cross-linking agent.
12. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the co-cross-linking agent is an isocyanuric acid derivative or an acrylate or a methacrylate derivative derived from a polyol.

13. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, which further comprises a filler, a pigment, a processing aid, an antioxidant, a static eliminator, a UV stabilizer or a slip agent.

14. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the filler is a mixture of platelet-shaped and crystalline mineral intergrowths.

15. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, having a variable color pattern and a homogeneous design.

16-24 (withdrawn)

25. (Currently amended) A The floor covering comprising as polymer binder at least one elastomer based on at least one polyolefin with a density < 0.910 g/cm³, and at least one grafted copolymer,

wherein the proportion of grafted copolymer in relation to the total weight of the polymeric binder is 5% to 25% by weight; and

wherein the grafted copolymer is maleic acid anhydride grafted HD polyethylene.